

**Tuesday, July 2, 2019 – 6:30 PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Prudential Committee Meeting Room**  
**144 Newton Street**  
**South Hadley, MA 01075**

**In Attendance:** PC Clerk Bruce Perron, PC member Kevin Taugher, PC member John Wojciechowski, Fire Chief Robert Authier, Interim Clerk Treasurer Ira Brezinsky, Chase St. Andre, Ed Wall, R. Scott Williams, Kari Scytkowski

**CALL TO ORDER**

Perron called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM

**REORGANIZATION OF PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE**

Following the appointment of John Wojciechowski to the Prudential Committee at its June 20 meeting, the PC chose to reorganize officers of the PC. Kari Scytkowski asked what the difference was between Chairman, Clerk and Member. Perron explained that the Clerk takes minutes and the Chair runs the meeting.

**Nomination:** Wojciechowski nominated Perron to be Chair.

**Motion:** Taugher moved to close nomination. Perron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**Nomination:** Wojciechowski nominated Taugher to be Clerk.

**Motion:** Taugher moved to close nomination. Perron seconded.

Perron stated that, as part of his contract, Brezinsky would be responsible for meeting minutes. Ms. Scytkowski commented that the PC Clerk is paid an additional amount in exchange for the additional responsibility of taking minutes. Perron responded that the PC Clerk would still be responsible for coordinating with Brezinsky to ensure that minutes are correctly recorded and maintained.

Motion carried 3-0.

**Motion:** Perron moved to enter into Executive Session in compliance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 30A Section 21(a), subparagraph 3, and return to open session at the conclusion of executive session for the purpose of 1) Discussing legal strategy with respect to litigation currently pending before the Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations Case No. MUP 17-6016, a case concerning a dispute over the replacement of captain positions with Lieutenant Positions; and 2) Discussing legal strategy with respect to clearly and imminently threatened litigation at the Department of Labor Relations concerning the adoption of the Health, Dental and Life Insurance Policy at the March 28, 2019 Prudential Committee Meeting.

**Motion to Amend:** Taugher moved to amend the motion to include the phrase, “because discussing these items in open session will have a deleterious effect on the District’s negotiating position”. Seconded by Perron. Amendment carried 3-0.

**Roll call vote at 6:36 to enter Executive Session: Wojciechowski aye, Taugher aye, Perron aye.**

The PC returned to Open Session at 7:19 PM

#### **APPROVAL OF INTERIM CLERK TREASURER CONTRACT**

Perron asked if anyone had any questions about the ICT contract. There were no questions.

**Motion:** Taugher moved to approve the Interim Clerk Treasurer contract. Seconded by Wojciechowski. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Perron stated that the minutes of April 24 needed to be approved and that other subsequent minutes needed to be compiled. Taugher stated that the April 24 minutes were previously submitted but not approved. He further stated that he was still not prepared to approve those minutes. Perron asked Taugher to send proposed changes/edits.

**Motion:** Taugher moved to approved minutes of June 20. Wojciechowski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Taugher asked Brezinsky to identify which minutes are missing and inform the Chair.

#### **CHIEF’S REPORT**

**Inspections:** Chief Authier reported 30 fire calls and 173 EMS calls in May. In June there we 50 fire calls and 164 EMS calls. He reported 29 business inspections and 20 smoke/CO inspections in May. In June there were 17 business inspections and 26 smoke/CO inspections.

**Personnel:** Firefighters Collin Morley and Darren O’Reilly have completed Paramedic School and obtained their Paramedic certification. Firefighter Riley O’Connor has resigned to take a position in the Sandwich, MA fire department. Call firefighter Jessica Washington has been promoted to fulltime.

Chief Authier recently attended a class sponsored by MIIA on the topic of harassment, harassment claims, and investigation. All harassment claims must be investigated.

#### **ADJUSTMENT OF AMBULANCE RECEIPTS**

**Motion:** Taugher moved to approve adjustment of ambulance receipts in the amount of \$179,718.65 for the month of May. Seconded by Wojciechowski.

Taugher explained that the ambulance insurance billing company Comstar provides a monthly report showing the amount billed, amount written off due to various Federal and State contractual and regulatory issues. The gross amount of May billing is \$276,481.60. The amount to be written off is \$179,718.65, leaving a net amount to be collected of \$96,762.95. Taugher further commented that the District consistently bills significantly more than it collects. This is the case for all ambulance services.

Motion carried 3-0

**AMBULANCE INTERCEPTS**

Taugher commented that the District continues to respond to a significant number of intercept calls in District 2 and as well as a smaller number in the Town of Granby. These calls are needed when Advanced Life Support (ALS) service is needed.

**DISTRICT INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

Brezinsky proposed two Investment Strategy Policies (ISP's), Bartholomew and Company, in order to proceed with an investment strategy that should yield a higher rate of return. The two policies would dictate investment strategy for Stabilization Accounts and OPEB Trust accounts. The plan would be to invest all OPEB and Stabilization funds, currently at the MMDT, with Bartholomew according to these policies. Additionally, a portion of the District's MMDT General Fund account could be invested with Bartholomew, subject to further analysis.

Because the funds will not be needed for many years. OPEB funds would be invested "moderately aggressively", with 30% in fixed income and 70% in equities. Stabilization funds would be invested more conservatively, but should still yield a higher rate of return than in the current MMDT accounts.

District resident Ed Wall commented that the District should be careful in how it invests and make sure that the investment advisor is properly vetted.

**Motion:** Taugher moved to approve the South Hadley Fire District 1 OPEB ISP. Wojciechowski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**Motion:** Taugher moved to approve South Hadley Fire District 1 Long-term ISP. Wojciechowski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**Motion:** Taugher moved to contract with Bartholomew and Company to manage the funds. Wojciechowski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Taugher asked Brezinsky to follow up on Mr. Walls concerns. Brezinsky will meet again with Brian Jamros from Bartholomew and come back to the PC later in July with a specific plan.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is planned for July 25 at 6:30 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** Taugher moved to adjourn at 7:53 PM. Wojciechowski seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ira Brezinsky  
District #1, Interim Clerk Treasurer

A true copy, attest:

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Kevin Taugher, Prudential Committee Clerk